Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7.   (New) A system for customizing a computer system, the system comprising:

a configuration mechanism installed on the computer system, the configuration mechanism being programmed with configuration parameters corresponding to customization information specified in a customer order,

wherein the computer system is configured to retrieve the configuration parameters from the configuration mechanism and to customize the computer system according to the configuration parameters, and

wherein the configuration mechanism allows a system administrator to manage the computer system remotely, independent of an on or off status of the computer system.

8.   (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the configuration mechanism is a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) adapter.

9.   (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the configuration mechanism is manually programmed with the configuration parameters at a distribution site.

10. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the computer system is configured to customize an operating system according to the customization parameters.

11. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the configuration mechanism includes at least one communication port and the configuration parameters is downloaded from a server to the configuration mechanism via the at least one communication port.

12. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the configuration mechanism continuously monitors one or more critical system components of the computer system for potential problems.

13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the configuration mechanism alerts the system administrator of events that can impact operation of the computer system.

14. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the configuration parameters comprise a computer name, a host name, a host IP address, a host gateway, or a host subnet.